

REMARKS

Please reconsider this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 1-5 and 9-13 contain allowable subject matter.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-5 and 9-13 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 9, and 13 are independent claims. Claims 2-5 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Claims 10-12 depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 9.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1-5 and 9-13 have been amended for clarity, to correct formatting of the claims, and to correct improper antecedent basis errors. Additionally, claim 13 had been amended to be in independent form. No new matter has been introduced by these minor amendments of form. These amendments are not made in view of prior art.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph

Claims 1-5 and 9-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter

regarded as the invention. To the extent that this rejection may still apply to the amended claims, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify the “axial direction” and “the turning direction of said arm” by relating them both to a “longitudinal direction” defined by the geometry of the hinge extensively explained and discussed in the specification in 37 different locations. Specifically, support for this amendment can be found in paragraphs [0003], [0004], [0032] and [0033] and in Figures 1 through 9.

Further “its” has been replaced with the correct structural element in claims 1 and 9. Additionally, “the other end part” recited in claim 1 has been replaced with “engagement part” as the Examiner suggested in the present Office Action. Also, as suggested by the Examiner, “located” has been deleted for clarity.

The longitudinal direction, as amended in claim 1, has geometry to define the term “longitudinal.” Therefore, uses of the “longitudinal direction” in both claims 2 and 3 are no longer indefinite. Claim 5 has been amended to clarify the limitations contained therein.

Claim 9 has been amended to clarify the structural cooperative relationship of the “lock retaining means” with the other elements of the hinge. The element “lock part” disposed on the lock lever has been added to show the relationship clearly. Now, it is clear that the lock retaining means will engage with the lock part preventing “said lock lever from turning.” Support for this amendment can be found in paragraphs [0043] and [0044] of the specification along with figures 1 through 7 and figure 10.

Claim 10 has been amended by removing "located" to clarify "said lock position" so it is not confused with being a physical structure. Claims 11 and 12 have been amended by replacing "turnable member" with "turning member" as suggested by the Examiner.

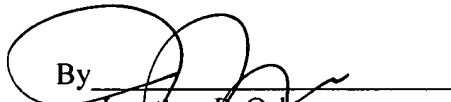
No new matter has been added by way of any of these minor amendments of form and all the amendments are fully supported by the original specification. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 12088/023001).

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Respectfully submitted,

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